



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

B. POPE BARTLETT, ESQ.,

Medical Officer of Health.



*Mere Rural Sanitary Authority.*



PRESENTED 1907.





# Mere Rural Sanitary Authority.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Mere  
District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to lay before you my report  
as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending  
December 31st, 1906.

### DEATHS.

During the year 1906 the deaths registered in the district numbered 71, an increase of four on last year. These show a death-rate of 14.3 per 1,000 population calculated on the census estimated to the middle of the year. The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1906 was 15.4. Of the deaths eight were of children under one year of age, equal to an annual death-rate of 62 per 1,000 births (England and Wales 133). Forty-four deaths were of persons 65 years of age and upwards.

According to the quarters of the year, the deaths were as follows:—

First Quarter	...	...	...	20
Second    "	...	...	...	14
Third      "	...	...	...	12
Fourth     "	...	...	...	25
				—
				71

There were 37 deaths of males and 34 of females.

### BIRTHS.

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 129 an increase of 12 on last year. This number is equal to an annual birth-rate of 26 per 1,000 population. The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the same period was 27. Seventy-one of the births were of males and 58 of females.

### MORTALITY FROM CERTAIN DISEASES.

Of the deaths classified according to their causes 3 were of phthisis, 9 of bronchitis, 3 of pneumonia, and 9 from diseases of the heart. Seven deaths were returned as due to cancer, a considerable increase on last year, 10 due to apoplexy and one to suicide.

### DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

These are few in number, viz., one child died of erysipelas in Zeals, and the death of one child was attributed to zymotic enteritis.



## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During the year 35 cases included under zymotic diseases have been reported under the Notification Act. Of these 24 were of scarlatina, 5 diphtheria, 5 erysipelas, and 1 enteric fever.

### SCARLATINA.

This disease has appeared in various parts of the district during the year, but the cases have been of a mild type, and no deaths were attributed to it. There were a few cases in Zeals at the commencement of the year, and about the same time the disease broke out among the children attending the schools at Gasper necessitating the closure of those schools for a short time. In November seven cases were reported in five houses at East Knoyle. They were promptly isolated and by the end of the year, no fresh cases had been reported.

### DIPHTHERIA.

Only five cases were reported during the year. These were isolated cases in various parts of the district, and were not of a malignant type.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

One case of enteric fever was reported from Mere during the month of March. A leakage of sewage from a drain was discovered near the house where the patient lived, which was the probable cause. This was promptly dealt with and no other cases followed.

### INFLUENZA.

During the months of November and December this disease was very prevalent in all parts of the district, and especially in the town of Mere. The cases were nearly all of a mild type, and their duration shorter than in previous epidemics of the same complaint.

### WATER SUPPLY OF THE DISTRICT.

Towards the end of the year, the owners of property in East Knoyle succeeded in supplying that portion of the village previously deficient, with a plentiful supply of good water. This is obtained from a well dug near Knoyle House, the water being pumped to a reservoir in Clouds Park, estimated to contain 25,000 gallons. From there the water is taken to Slades House, Church Hill, the National Schools, the Rectory, and to Holloway, suitable standpipes being erected at different places. Several farms in East Knoyle have also received a supply of water from the same source. As that part of East Knoyle known as Milton was previously supplied from another source, practically the whole of the village has now an abundance of good water.

The other parts of the district in which there is a deficient supply of water, viz., parts of Mere, Sedgehill, and West Knoyle, suffered during those months in the summer when the rainfall was low, viz., July, August and September, the total rainfall in Mere during those months being only 4.81 inches, the rainfall for the whole year being 36.88 inches (from observations taken by the Rev. J. A. Lloyd, at the Vicarage, Mere). The scheme for supplying these parishes, which your Council were considering appears at present to be in abeyance, but I trust it will receive your consideration during the coming year.

## REGULATIONS FOR DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

During the past year, assisted by the Sanitary Inspector, I have given considerable attention to the dairies and cowsheds in the district, and have succeeded in getting some of them put into a more sanitary condition, in compliance with the regulations adopted by your Council in 1905. As the district is a large milk producing area, there are a considerable number of cowsheds to be inspected and put in sanitary condition, entailing much work to the Sanitary Authority and expense to the owners of property. I am pleased to say the owners of cowsheds and the dairy farmers using the same, are beginning to recognise the importance of producing the milk, most of which is sent to London, amidst the best sanitary surroundings possible, and so far the sanitary officers have had no serious opposition to the alterations and improvements ordered to be done under the regulations made by your Council with respect to dairies and cowsheds.

In the course of my inspections, the following are some of the chief defects I have discovered and as far as possible had corrected:—

### CONDITION OF COWSHEDS AND YARDS.

**AIR SPACE AND VENTILATION.**—Generally good. Some stalls required more roof ventilation.

**WALLS AND PAVING.**—In some cases whitewashing the walls was badly needed, and this was ordered to be done. Defective floors were one of the chief faults, the patching being such that much work would be necessary to keep the floor reasonably clean and free from retained manure.

**DRAINAGE OF SHEDS AND YARDS.**—In some cases the drains in the sheds were badly laid, the liquid portions of the manure being prevented from running away, and collecting in small pools. In a few cases I found a drain trapped inside the shed instead of in the open air outside. More often the means of disposing of the liquid manure, after flowing from the stalls, was in a defective state, in one case simply collecting in a pool outside the shed instead of being conducted to a proper cesspit some distance from the stalls. A very common sanitary defect I found was very large collections of coarse manure, allowed to accumulate in heaps near the cowstalls until such time as it was convenient to haul it out on the land.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—Most of the farms I inspected were well supplied with water. The owners recognise the importance of a plentiful supply of good water, both for cooling the milk and for the cows to drink. The farms in which the water supply is not satisfactory, are situated in that part of the district which I have previously mentioned as requiring a public supply.

**CLEANLINESS OF MILKERS, &c.**—At all the farms I visited the milkers were given orders to wash their hands before milking, but I seldom saw proper conveniences for doing the same. A basin, warm water, soap, and towels should in every case be provided, and kept in a convenient place for the milkers' use. Most farms had good accommodation for washing cans, and other vessels used for containing milk, and in those farms where the milk is cooled before being sent away



a proper shed, well ventilated, is used to contain the cooling apparatus. In most cases I was informed the cows' udders were washed before milking commenced. This is very necessary when the cows are kept in the stalls day and night.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.—Many of the dairies and cowsheds in the district are in an excellent sanitary condition, and every care is taken to obtain milk as free from all contamination as possible. This is most marked at those farms where the wholesale milk buyers insist on a standard of proper sanitary precautions, or where cheese is manufactured. Considering the great attention the Sanitary Authorities in London are giving to the purity of the milk sent from the country, I cannot too strongly impress on your Council, and on all who send milk to the market, the importance of doing all that is possible to produce the milk in a manner to ensure it arriving at its destination free from all possible impurities such as may arise from insanitary surroundings during its production.

Most of the milk produced in the district is sent to the depots at Gillingham before being forwarded to London. There is only one small depot in my district, viz., at Mere, where the milk is collected and cooled before it is sent to Gillingham Station. I inspected that depot during the year, in company with the Medical Officer of Health for Woolwich.

#### THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The district being mainly an agricultural one very little in the way of manufactures is carried on in it. At Mere there is a small carpet-weaving workshop, which has been regularly inspected, and found in a proper sanitary condition. There are four domestic workshops in Mere and one laundry, and there are 10 retail bakehouses in the district, all of which have been inspected and found satisfactory.

#### THE GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

From frequent visits to various parts of the district during the year I am satisfied that the general sanitary condition is satisfactory. In the report of your Inspector you will see that 37 houses have been disinfected after infectious diseases, 14 houses cleaned and whitewashed, 25 drains laid or relaid and 22 cleansed or otherwise rectified. Eleven wells have been cleaned and repaired, and there have been 45 removals of offensive accumulations, carried out under the Inspector's supervision. In all 49 notices have been served, of which 47 have been complied with.

Trusting you will consider this report for the past year satisfactory,

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. POPE BARTLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bourton, February 1, 1907.

TABLE I.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate.
1896	5505	161	29.1	14	86.9	75	13.6	4				
1897	5440	152	27.9	11	72.3	64	11.7	9				
1898	5408	131	24.2	7	53.4	71	13.6	5				
1899	5357	137	25.2	10	72.9	86	16.0	5				
1900	5264	118	22.4	4	33.8	87	16.5	7				
1901	5210	137	26.2	8	58.3	70	13.4	6				
1902	5151	112	21.7	7	62.5	88	17.2	7				
1903	5093	124	24.3	7	56.4	65	12.7	4				
1904	5057	109	21.5	7	64.2	67	13.2	5				
1905	5009	117	23.3	8	68.3	67	13.3	2				
Averages for years 1896-1905.	5249	129	24.5	8.3	62.9	74	14.1	5.4				
1906	4959	129	26.0	8	62.0	71	14.3	6				

Area of District in acres  
(exclusive of area  
covered by water.)

31,091

Total population at all ages .....5,210  
Number of inhabited houses .....1,258  
Average number of persons per house 4.14

At Census  
of 1901.

TABLE II.

# TABLE OF DEATHS IN THE PARISHES

Names of Localities.	Kilmington.	East Knoyle. West Knoyle.	Kingston Deverill. Monkton Deverill.	Maiden Bradley.	Mere and Zeals.	Sedgehill.	Stourton.
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
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	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
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	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.
	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.	Births Registered.
	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths at all Ages.
	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year		



TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1906.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.							Total Cases Notified in Each Locality.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Kilmington.	East and West Knoyle.	Kingston and Monk'tn Deverill	Maiden Bradley.	Mere and Zeals.	Sedgehill.	Stourton.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.							
Small-pox ...														
Cholera ...														
Diphtheria ...	5			2	3				2			2		1
Membranous croup														
Erysipelas ...	5	1	1			3			1	1	1	2		
Scarlet fever ...	24		4	20					7		3	8	1	5
Typhus fever ...														
Enteric fever ...	1				1							1		
Relapsing fever ...														
Continued fever ...														
Puerperal fever ...														
Plague ...														
Totals ...	35	1	5	22	4	3			10	1	4	13	1	6

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Kilmington.	East and West Knogle.	Kingston & Monkton Deverill.	Maiden Bradley.	Mere and Zeals.	Sedgehill.	Stourton.	
Small-pox ...	...														
Measles ...	...														
Scarlet Fever ..	...														
Whooping-cough ...	...														
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup ...	...														
Croup ..	...														
Fever { Typhus ...	...														
{ Enteric ...	...														
{ Other continued ...	...														
Epidemic influenza ...	...														
Cholera ..	...														
Plague ..	...														
Diarrhoea ..	2	1					1		1	1					
Enteritis ...	...														
Puerperal fever ...	...														
Erysipelas ...	1	1										1			
Other septic diseases ...	...														
Phthisis ...	3				2	1						3			
Other tubercular diseases ...	1				1			1							
Cancer, malignant disease ...	7					3	4	2	2	1		1			1
Bronchitis ...	9					2	7				3	4	1	1	
Pneumonia ...	3					1	2				2	1			
Pleurisy ...	...														
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ..	1						1		1						
Alcoholism ...	...														
Cirrhosis of Liver }	...														
Venereal diseases ...	...														
Premature birth ...	...														
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	...														
Heart diseases ...	9				2		7		3		1	3		2	
Accidents ...	...														
Suicides ...	1				1							1			
Apoplexy ...	10					3	7	1	1	1		5			2
All other causes ...	24	6	1			2	15	1	3	2	2	8		5	3
All causes ...	71	8	1		6	12	44	5	11	5	8	27	1	8	6